



Chairman Boxer

Superfund Cleanup – Troy, MT

Question: Asbestos contamination affects areas throughout the Libby Superfund site. One such area is Troy, Montana. In 2006, EPA stated that it planned to cleanup Troy High School and then cleanup the residential and commercial areas of Troy. Please provide a description of EPA's cleanup activities in the Libby Superfund site, including but not limited to Troy, which describes:

- a. The status of any EPA investigations or cleanup efforts involving areas where children may regularly visit or live,

Answer: EPA completed a Time Critical Removal Action at the Troy High School during the summer of 2006, after suspected Vermiculite Attic Insulation was noted in the school. EPA initiated a comprehensive Troy Asbestos Property Evaluation (TAPE) effort within the City of Troy (OU 7) during the spring of 2007. This is being conducted in coordination with the State of Montana. One purpose of the evaluation is to conduct a comprehensive sampling and analysis program to determine the nature and extent of contamination of residential and public areas within Troy.

EPA estimates that approximately 1430 residences and commercial properties in the city of Libby, MT may require response actions. As of the end of May 2007, EPA has completed response actions at 828 of those properties.

The status of investigations and response activity for the rest of the Libby Superfund Site is presented in EPA's written testimony for the public hearing held by the Committee in Libby on April 5, 2007.

- b. The number of residences and commercial buildings that need to be cleaned up,

Answer: This number cannot be finalized for Troy until the TAPE is complete, specifically the sampling and analysis of specific properties to determine if contamination is present. At present, EPA expects to sample approximately 1200 residential properties. The EPA expects that the evaluation process will take about two (2) years. Because the sampling and analysis of properties have just begun, at this time we have no definitive estimate of the number of properties requiring response actions for cleanup of Libby asbestos contamination in Troy.

In Libby, the estimated number of remaining properties that may require response action is approximately 602. The final number of properties that may require a response action is dependent on ongoing investigations and future Records of Decision.

- c. EPA's timeline for completing necessary cleanups, including Agency records that pose several possible timelines based on potential funding levels and other factors,

Answer: A timeline for completing the necessary response actions for residences in the City of Troy can not be determined at this time. Working with the State of Montana, the EPA has to complete its TAPE process. This will give EPA the number of residences that need to be cleaned up. EPA estimates that it will take approximately two (2) years to complete the TAPE process.

EPA expects to complete the remaining removal actions for Libby properties at the rate of approximately 160 per year. Ongoing remedial investigations will be used to determine future remedial actions and their timelines. We are researching our records (both hardcopy and electronic) to determine if other possible timelines were considered. We expect to have this search completed by August 31, 2007.

- d. The anticipated costs of completing these cleanups, and

Answer: The EPA is still working to identify the total number of properties in the city of Troy that may or will need to be cleaned up. We do not have an accurate estimate. Between 2004 and 2006 in the town of Libby, EPA conducted between 170 and 225 removal actions per year at a variety of commercial, residential and public properties through out various areas within the Libby Superfund site, budgeting \$17M annually.

The costs for completing all response actions at the site, including Troy, can not be determined until all of the Records of Decision are completed, which is tentatively planned for 2011.

- e. All EPA records, including any memoranda, email, meeting notes, telephone logs or other EPA records that describe actual or potential funding shortfalls since 2005 for cleanup work at the Libby Superfund site, including but not limited to investigation, characterization, and cleanup activities.

Answer: We are currently researching our records (both hardcopy and electronic) to identify all EPA Superfund records that may be responsive

to this request. We expect to have this search completed by August 31, 2007.